

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
measuring at a station a strength of a communication from a current cell;
measuring at the station the strength of a communication from at least one other cell;
decoding a communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell to obtain offset information;
modifying the measured strength of the communication from the current cell by a current cell an offset value, the current cell offset value being dependent on the offset information;
modifying the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell by at least one further offset value in dependence on the obtained offset information;
comparing the measured strength of the communication from the current cell and the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell after the modifying;
measuring a duration of time for which the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell during said comparing; and
changing the current cell with which the station is associated, wherein the current cell is changed only if the measured duration of time is at least a predetermined time period.
2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said modifying, a value is added to the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell.
3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said modifying, a function is applied to the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell.
4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the predetermined condition is that the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell is greater than a threshold.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claimed in claim 4, wherein the threshold is defined relative to the measured strength of the communication from the current cell.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein information defining the threshold is included in the communication from the current cell.
7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the offset information as to how the measured strength of a communication from a neighbouring cell is to be modified is in the communication from the at least one other cell.
8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the station is provided with timing information defining when the station should next check for the offset information.
9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the timing information is in the communication from the neighbouring cell.
10. **(Canceled)**
11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein information defining the predetermined period of time is in the communication from the current cell.
12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the current cell offset value is added to the measured strength of the communication from the current cell prior to said comparing.
13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein if the current cell is changed in said changing from an old current cell to a new current cell, the current cell offset value is no longer added to the measured strength of the communication from the old current cell and a new current cell offset value is added to the measured strength of the communication from the new current cell.
14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell comprises the broadcast control channel.
15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the station has at least one common channel in the current cell.
16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the station has at least one dedicated channel in the current cell.
17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the station is arranged to use the same frequency in the current cell and the at least one other cell.
18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the station is a mobile terminal.

Serial No.: 10/030,798

Group Art Unit: 2618

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the telecommunication system is a code division multiple access system.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the telecommunication system is a time division multiple access system.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the telecommunication system is a code division/time division multiple access hybrid.

22. (Currently Amended) A station comprising:

a measurer for measuring a received strength of a communication from a current cell;

a measurer for measuring the received strength of a communication from at least one other cell;

a decoder for decoding a communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell to obtain offset information;

a controller for modifying the measured strength of a communication from the current cell by a current cell an offset value, the current cell offset value being dependent on the offset information;

the controller for further modifying the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell by a further offset value in dependence on the obtained offset information;

the controller for comparing the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell and the measured received strength of the communication from the current cell, at least one of the measured strengths having been modified by the controller;

a timer for measuring a duration of time for which the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell, at least one of the measured strengths having been modified by the controller; and

the controller for changing the current cell with which the station is associated, wherein the current cell is changed only if the measured duration of time is at least a predetermined time period, at least one of the measured strengths having been modified by the controller.

23. (Original) A cellular telecommunications network comprising:

at least one station as claimed in claim 22, and at least one other station, said at least one other station requiring a different procedure in order to determine if a new current cell is required.

Serial No.: 10/030,798

Group Art Unit: 2618

24. (Original) A network as claimed in claim 23, wherein the signalling sent by said network to said at least one station and to said at least one other station is dependent on the procedure required by the respective stations to determine if a new current cell is required.

25.-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

measuring at a station a strength of a communication from an at least one current cell;
measuring at the station the strength of a communication from at least one other cell;
decoding a communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell to obtain offset information;

modifying the measured strength of the communication from the current cell by a current cell an offset value, the current cell offset value being dependent on the offset information;

modifying the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell by a further offset value in dependence on the obtained offset information;

comparing the measured strength of the communication from the current cell and the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell, after the modifying;

measuring a duration of time for which the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell during said comparing; and

changing the current cell with which the station is associated, wherein the current cell is changed only if the measured duration of time is at least a predetermined time period.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the predetermined condition is that the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell is greater than a threshold.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein information defining the threshold is included in the communication from the current cell.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein offset information as to how the measured strength of a communication from a neighbouring cell is to be modified is in the communication from the at least one other cell.

Serial No.: 10/030,798

Group Art Unit: 2618

34. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein offset information as to how the measured strength of a communication from a neighbouring cell is to be modified is in the communication from the at least one other cell.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein offset information as to how the measured strength of a communication from a neighbouring cell is to be modified is in the communication from the at least one other cell.

36. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein offset information as to how the measured strength of a communication from a neighbouring cell is to be modified is in the communication from the at least one other cell.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein offset information as to how the measured strength of a communication from a neighbouring cell is to be modified is in the communication from the at least one other cell.

38.-53. **(Canceled)**

54. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the current cell offset value is added to the measured strength of the communication from the current cell prior to the comparing.

55.-63. **(Canceled)**

64. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the communication from the at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell comprises the broadcast control channel.

65.-75. **(Canceled)**

76. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the station has at least one common channel in the current cell.

77.-88. **(Canceled)**

89. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the station has at least one dedicated channel in the current cell.

90.-101. **(Canceled)**

102. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the station is arranged to use the same frequency in the current cell and the at least one other cell.

103.-116. **(Canceled)**

Serial No.: 10/030,798

Group Art Unit: 2618

117. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the station is a mobile terminal.

118.-132. (Canceled)

133. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the telecommunication system is a code division multiple access system.

134.-149. (Canceled)

150. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 164, wherein the telecommunication system is a time division multiple access system.

151.-162. (Canceled)

163. (Currently Amended) A cellular telecommunications system comprising:

a measurer for measuring a received strength of a communication from a current cell;

a measurer for measuring the received strength of a communication from at least one other cell;

a decoder for decoding a communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell to obtain offset information;

a controller for modifying the measured strength of a communication from the current cell by a current cell an offset value, the current cell offset value being dependent on the offset information;

the controller for further modifying the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell by a further offset value in dependence on the obtained offset information;

the controller for comparing the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell and the measured received strength of the communication from the current cell, at least one of the measured strengths having been modified by the controller;

a timer for measuring a duration of time for which the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell, at least one of the measured strengths having been modified by the controller;

the controller for changing the current cell with which the station is associated, wherein the current cell is changed only if the measured duration of time is at least a predetermined time period, at least one of the measured strengths having been modified by the controller; and

a network element for sending communications to the station, said network element being arranged to send offset information to the station, the offset information being used by the station to modify measurements of the strength of communications from at least one other cell.

164. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoding a communication is dependent upon the measured strength of the communication satisfying a predetermined condition.

165. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined time period is variable.

166. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a variable predetermined time period is dependent on at least one of environment and traffic.

167. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the detecting, at a first time during said comparing, when the measured strength of the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the current cell, wherein said measuring comprises measuring a duration of time starting at the first time for which the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell during said comparing, and wherein said changing comprises changing the current cell with which the station is associated only if the measured duration of time reaches a second time, the first time and second time defining the predetermined time period.

168. (Previously Presented) A station as claimed in claim 22, the controller for detecting, at a first time, when the measured strength of the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the current cell, as modified by said controller, wherein said timer is configured for measuring a duration of time starting at the first time for which the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell, and wherein said controller is configured for changing the current cell with which the station is associated only if the measured duration of time reaches a second time, the first time and second time defining the predetermined time period.

169. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the detecting, at a first time during said comparing, when the measured strength of the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the current cell, wherein said measuring comprises measuring a duration of time starting at the first time for which the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell

during said comparing, and wherein said changing comprises changing the current cell with which the station is associated only if the measured duration of time reaches a second time, the first time and second time defining the predetermined time period.

170. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein during said changing, the current cell is not changed when the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell does not exceed the measured strength of the communication from the current cell for the duration of the predetermined time period.

171. (Previously Presented) A station as claimed in claim 22, wherein said controller does not change the current cell when the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell does not exceed the measured strength of the communication from the current cell for the duration of the predetermined time period.

172. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein during said changing, the current cell is not changed when the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell does not exceed the measured strength of the communication from the current cell for the duration of the predetermined time period.

173. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said measuring at the station the strength of a communication from the current cell and measuring at the station the strength of a communication from at least one other cell are performed simultaneously.

174. (Previously Presented) A station as claimed in claim 22, wherein said measurer for measuring the received strength of a communication from the current cell measures the received strength of a communication from the current cell at the same time that said measurer for measuring the received strength of a communication from the at least one other cell measures the received strength of a communication from that at least one other cell.

175. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said measuring at the station the strength of a communication from the current cell and measuring at the station the strength of a communication from at least one other cell are performed simultaneously.

176. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

measuring at a station a strength of a communication from a current cell;

measuring at the station the strength of a communication from at least one other cell;

decoding a communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell to obtain offset information;

modifying the measured strength of the communication from the current cell by a current cell ~~an~~ offset value, the current cell offset value being dependent on the offset information;

modifying the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell by a further offset value in dependence on the obtained offset information;

comparing the measured strength of the communication from the current cell and the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell after the modifying; and

depending of the results of said comparing, changing the current cell with which the station is associated, wherein the current cell is changed only if the condition that the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell is met and the condition continues to be met for the duration of a predetermined time period.

177. (Currently Amended) A station comprising:

a measurer for measuring a received strength of a communication from a current cell;

a measurer for measuring the received strength of a communication from at least one other cell;

a decoder for decoding a communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell to obtain offset information;

a controller for modifying the measured strength of a communication from the current cell by a current cell ~~an~~ offset value, the current cell offset value being dependent on the offset information;

the controller for further modifying the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell by a further offset value in dependence on the obtained offset information;

the controller for comparing the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell and the measured received strength of the communication from the current cell, at least one of the measured strengths having been modified by the controller; and

the controller for changing, depending of the results of the comparison, the current cell with which the station is associated, wherein the current cell is changed only if the condition that the measured strength of the communication for the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell is met and the condition continues to be met for the duration of a predetermined time period.

178. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

Serial No.: 10/030,798

Group Art Unit: 2618

measuring at a station a strength of a communication from a current cell;
measuring at the station the strength of a communication from at least one other cell;
decoding a communication from at least one of the current cell and the at least one other cell to obtain offset information;
modifying the measured strength of the communication from the current cell by a current cell an offset value, the current cell first offset value being dependent on the offset information;
modifying the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell by a further offset value in dependence on the obtained offset information;
comparing the measured strength of the communication from the current cell and the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell after the modifying; and
depending of the results of said comparing, changing the current cell with which the station is associated, wherein the current cell is changed only if the condition that the measured strength of the communication from the at least one other cell exceeds the measured strength of the communication from the current cell is met and the condition continues to be met for the duration of a predetermined time period.